

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 AID-20 L-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 RSR-01

/087 W

----- 020782

R 211029Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3358

RUEHDC USDOC WASHDC UNN

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USUN NEW YORK 176

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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DEPT PASS AID

MBABANE FOR EMBASSY AND OSARAC

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, LT

SUBJ: LESOTHO AVIATION

REF : STATE 141179

1. COMMONWEALTH FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION (CFTC) RECENTLY COMPLETED STUDY OF LESOTHO AVIATION. MAIN RECOMMENDATION OF STUDY IS THAT GOL NEGOTIATE TO TAKE OVER THRICE-WEEKLY JOBURG/MASERU AND RETURN HAWKER-SIDDELEY FLIGHTS WHICH PRESENTLY OPERATED BY SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS.

2. UNDER EXISTING MONDAY-WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY FLIGHT SCHEDULE, CONSIDERABLE TRAFFIC DIVERTED TO BLOEMFONTEIN 90 MILES AWAY IN RSA. BECAUSE OF POOR SCHEDULING AND POOR LINKAGES WITH FLIGHTS TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND OTHER INTERNA-

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TIONAL FLIGHTS TO REST OF AFRICA AND EUROPE SAA LOSES MONEY

ON FLIGHTS.

3. CFTC RECOMMENDATION IS FOR TWO MASERU/JOBURG AND RETURN FLIGHTS FIVE DAYS A WEEK AND ONE MASERU/JOBURG/GABORONE AND RETURN FLIGHT ONE DAY A WEEK (PROBABLY MONDAY). SMALL 17-SEATER WOULD REPLACE HAWKER-SIDDELEY AIRCRAFT NOW IN USE. UNDER THIS PLAN COST PER PASSENGER WOULD BE REDUCED, TRAFFIC NOW DIVERTED TO BLOEMFONTEIN WOULD HOPEFULLY BE RECAPTURED AND NEW TRAFFIC COULD ALSO BE PICKED UP. MASERU/JOBURG/GABORONE FLIGHT MIGHT ALSO LINK UP WITH LUSAKA/GABORONE FLIGHTS.

4. CFTC ALSO RECOMMENDED GOL REQUEST 50 PER CENT OF AIR TRAFFIC FROM MOKHOTLONG DISTRICT TO LADYSMITH IN RSA WHICH NOW WHOLLY SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATED. EXISTING INTERNAL SERVICE WOULD REMAIN AS IS.

5. GOL ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CFTC RECOMMENDATIONS, AND POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT CANADIANS WILL GRANT GOL SUITABLE SMALL PLANE. OTHER AIRCRAFT BEING CONSIDERED IS FOKKER (FAIRCHILD F-27) 23-SEATER TURBOPUSH MODEL.

6. SHORT LIST FOR UNDP FEASIBILITY STUDY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY GOL. LIST CONSISTS OF SIX FIRMS. TENDERS GOING OUT SOON AND WORK EXPECTED COMMENCE THIS YEAR. CONTRACT WOULD BE FOR \$50,000.

7. FOR JOHANNESBURG, GABORONE, AND MBABANE: PLEASE PASS SUBSTANCE PARAS 1-6 TO BERGT IF HE VISITS YOU PRIOR TO MASERU VISIT.  
NELSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, AIR ROUTES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JUL 1973  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LESOTHO AVIATION  
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**To:** STATE  
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